

1874–1905. It is as a great systematist that Günther will be remembered, but, as is shown by his work ‘An Introduction to the Study of Fishes,’ he took a good deal of interest in structure and life-history and other problems apart from the discrimination of species and classification. He was twice married, and his eldest son, Mr. R. T. Günther, who is a fellow and tutor of Magdalen College, Oxford, is a distinguished zoologist, antiquary, and writer.

XVIII.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

Baker on Indian Pigeons.

[Indian Pigeons and Doves. By E. C. Stuart Baker, F.Z.S., F.L.S., M.B.O.U. Pp. xvi+260, 27 plates. London (Witherby). 8vo. 50s.]

No separate work on the Columbidae of India has hitherto appeared, and we must congratulate Mr. Stuart Baker on having followed up his well-known ‘Indian Ducks and their Allies’ with a companion volume on the Pigeons. No one is more competent to deal with this subject than our author, since he has not only spent the greater part of his life in India, where he has had unrivalled opportunities of observing and studying the birds in their native haunts, but he has also a very good Museum-knowledge of the birds, and is thus enabled to present a very complete epitome of how and where to shoot and collect Indian Pigeons, but also of our present knowledge of their nomenclature and classification.

The total number of species and subspecies dealt with numbers fifty-one, and about half of them are depicted on the twenty-seven coloured plates specially prepared by Mr. Grönvold.

Mr. Baker discusses at some length the question of whether the typical Blue Rock-Pigeon (*Columba l. livia*) ever occurs in India. He finds in the British Museum only two examples (from Ladak) which he believes are really identical with the European form, while a good many others which have been referred to it are really intermediate between this and the true Indian subspecies (*C. l. intermedia*) with

the grey lower back, but there can be no doubt that Pigeons are so frequently domesticated and have such a power of flight that they must often defeat the endeavours of the most skilful "splitter."

Pigeons in India, though hardly considered as game-birds, are frequently sought after by sportsmen, and it requires pretty good shooting to make a good bag of Green Pigeon.

We must congratulate both author and publisher on the appearance of this fine work, which should be on the shelves of every Indian sportsman and naturalist.

Brasil on Shore and Sea Birds.

[Les oiseaux d'eau, de rivage et de marais de France, de Belgique et des Iles Britanniques, par L. Brasil, Professeur à la Faculté des sciences de Caen. Pp. 1-339, 142 figures. Paris (Baillière), 1914. 8vo. Prix 6 Fr.]

The first object of this little book is to enable sportsmen and others to identify any strange birds which they may meet with; and to this end very full dichotomous keys are given, in which the more conspicuous external characters of the birds are made use of. M. Brasil also hopes that his work may perhaps stimulate the interest of the French nation in ornithology and the study of birds. Formerly this interest was widespread, and there were many professional and amateur ornithologists in France, but this can hardly be said to be the case at present.

The nomenclature followed is generally that of Hartert and the other authors of the Hand-list, but we observe that the author cannot bring himself to call the Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* or the Crane *Megalornis grus*, though he attributes the Grebes to *Colymbus*, which, however, does not date from Brisson 1760, but from the 1758 edition of Linnæus.

The text is illustrated with a number of figures showing generic characters derived from beaks and feet, as well as reproductions from the well-known and artistic drawings of Kuhnert.

Brasil on the King Island Emu.

[L'Émeu de l'île King. L. Brasil. Bull. Soc. Linn. Norman. Caen, (6) vi. 1913, pp. 76-97.]

There are known to have existed within historic times two insular races of the Emu apart from the forms found on the mainland of Australia and on Tasmania.

Péron, the naturalist of the French expedition which visited the Australian seas between 1800 and 1804, found an Emu very abundant on King Island in Bass Straits between Victoria and Tasmania, as well as on Kangaroo Island, which lies off the coast of South Australia. In a coloured plate, no. xxxvi. of his report ('Voyage de Découvertes aux Terres Australes'), he figures two Emus, one of which has a black breast the other a white breast, which are stated to be male and female respectively and to have been taken on Kangaroo Island. The only known example of the Kangaroo Island Emu now existing is one of those brought to Europe by Péron, which is in the Paris Museum, and which matches very well the black-breasted bird of the plate.

Mr. Mathews, when writing his 'Birds of Australia,' believed that Péron's plate must represent two distinct species of birds, and thought that the white-breasted bird must be the now totally extinct form formerly existing on King Island.

Recently a number of semi-fossil bones of the Emu have been found on King Island, and have been examined by Prof. Baldwin Spencer, who gave them, in consequence of the smaller size, the name *Dromaius minor*. With this semi-fossil Emu Mathews at first identified the white-breasted bird of Péron, but he subsequently gave it a separate name, *D. spenceri*, and in addition to that Col. Legge has called it *D. bassi*.

In the present paper M. Brasil, who has been able to examine some manuscripts connected with Péron's voyage both at Havre and at Paris, endeavours to show that it is extremely unlikely that Péron and Lesueur, who were for 13 days in December 1802 on King Island, ever obtained any

examples of Emu at all, as they were landed without arms, provisions, or shelter, and the weather was so bad during that time, that the ships had to put off from the island.

He believes that both the individuals figured on Péron's plate came from Kangaroo Island, and that there was considerable sexual dimorphism in this species, not only in dimensions but also possibly in plumage, and that the measurements of the semi-fossil bones of the King Island Emu seem to show that the same variation in dimensions also existed among the Emus of that island.

Faxon on Brewster's Warbler.

[Brewster's Warbler (*Helminthophila leucobronchialis*): a Hybrid between the Golden-winged Warbler (*Helminthophila chrysoptera*) and the Blue-winged Warbler (*Helminthophila pinus*). By Walter Faxon. Mem. Mus. Comp. Zool. Harvard Coll. xl. 1913, pp. 311-316.]

This is a continuation of a paper previously published in the same periodical (*vide* 'Ibis,' 1911, p. 760), and contains the results of Mr. Faxon's observations in 1913 on the Warbler population of a certain swamp near Lexington, Mass. Here in early May a male Golden-wing was observed mated with a female Blue-wing. The birds were constantly watched, and the young first observed about June 15; by July 12 the young birds had lost their nesting-plumage completely, and were found to be undoubted examples of the form known as *Helminthophila leucobronchialis*, which is thus proved to be a hybrid. Another pair, also closely watched (a male Brewster's and a female Golden-wing), produced a brood the majority of which were Brewster's, but one was a Golden-wing male. The latter and one of the Brewster's were banded, and it is hoped they may return this next summer to the same swamps, when Mr. Faxon and Dr. Tyler hope to extend their observation over three generations.

This and the previous paper are of special interest to all students of heredity and Mendelian law, and should be carefully read through by them, as such cases as these can be but seldom observed in natural conditions.

Fleming on the Birds of Toronto.

[Birds of Toronto, Ontario. By James H. Fleming. Reprinted from 'The Natural History of the Toronto Region,' 1913, pp. 1-26.]

Mr. Fleming, who is a Colonial Member of the B. O. U., has here reprinted his list of the birds of the neighbourhood of Toronto originally published in the 'Auk' for 1906 and 1907. The birds are 292 in number, and with each species is given its status—resident, migrant, accidental, etc., etc.

Flower on the Zoological Service in Egypt.

[Report on the Zoological Service for the year 1912, in which is included the 14th Annual Report of the Giza Zoological Gardens. By Capt. S. S. Flower, Director. 58 pp., 12 pls. Cairo (Govt. Press). 1913, 8vo.]

In this report some account is given of the new laws promulgated in 1912 for the protection of the native fauna of Egypt. A licence is now required to shoot birds or capture them with nets, and the destruction or capture of a certain number of wild birds useful to agriculture is entirely forbidden. The schedule gives only the French and Arabic names, and among them are Larks, Orioles, Wagtails, Flycatchers, Pipits, Bee-eaters, Hoopoes, and Plovers.

The Cattle Egret, *Ardea ibis*, which is known to the natives as "Abu gerdan" (*i. e.* father of ticks), and which was some years ago a most characteristic feature of Egyptian agricultural life, has of late years been almost entirely exterminated by plume-hunters, and only one breeding-colony is now known to exist in Lower Egypt. This is now carefully protected and watched.

An attempt is also being made to found fresh colonies of these birds by keeping specimens in large aviaries and eventually giving them their liberty. Four of these have already been built for this purpose in different parts of the country.

Grinnell and Swarth on the Avifauna of the San Jacinto Mountains.

[An account of the Birds and Mammals of the San Jacinto area of Southern California, with remarks upon the behaviour of geographic

ranges on the margins of their habitats. By J. Grinnell & H. S. Swarth. University of California Publ. Zool. vol. 10, 1913, pp. 197-406, pls. 6-10.]

The San Jacinto Mountains are the southernmost part of the coast-range of California, and are cut off on the north by the San Gregorio Pass, through which runs the Southern Pacific Railway to Los Angeles. They rise to a height of 10,800 feet and thus include a considerable area of what is termed by Merriam, the Boreal zone, as is illustrated in the map accompanying this paper.

Messrs. Grinnell and Swarth spent the great part of the summer of 1908 in exploring this region, which was previously comparatively little known, and they give in this memoir a complete account of the Mammal and Bird fauna, as well as a number of interesting general observations and deductions.

Out of 169 species of birds met with they found 22 belonging to the boreal fauna; and, on comparing this with the numbers of species found in other isolated boreal areas in southern California, they come to the conclusion that "the smaller the disconnected area of a given zone the fewer the types which are persistent therein," so that some of the boreal areas further north have a much more restricted boreal fauna owing to their smaller size.

Another matter discussed is the contrast of the fauna to the west and east of the San Jacinto range: on the west side the climate is comparatively moist and the slopes are gradual, while on the east the slopes are so steep that the range of life-zones from the Lower Sonoras through the Transition to the Boreal is all crowded into about three miles, while the country at the base of the mountains is one of the driest and most arid in the world.

Gurney's Norfolk Bird-diary.

[Ornithological Report for Norfolk (1912). By J. H. Gurney, F.Z.S. Zoologist, 1913, pp. 161-181.]

Mr. Gurney's annual report always contains some matters of interest. This year a wonderful migration-rush was witnessed by Messrs. Rivere and Long on the north coast of Norfolk, near Hunstanton. It seems to have begun on the evening of Nov. 6, when the wind was light from the south,

and to have continued through the night and most of the next day. A continuous stream of birds was noticed flying south past Hunstanton, consisting of Hooded Crows, Rooks, Jackdaws, Lapwings, Fieldfares, Starlings, and small Finches and Larks. Curiously enough, a somewhat similar migration was noticed on the 5th at Heligoland and at Rossitten on the Baltic.

The Spoonbills still come to Breydon Broad, where we are glad to hear they are now protected by a paid watcher, but so far they do not appear to have bred.

Among the rarities noticed in 1912 was a Squacco Heron, shot on July 5 ; this has not been observed in Norfolk for fifty years.

The Terns are becoming more numerous at Blakeney Point now that a watcher has been put on by Mr. Quintin Gurney. It is estimated that there were 350 nests of the Common and 200 of the Lesser there this last season.

Lowe on Sea-birds.

[Our common Sea-birds: Cormorants, Terns, Gulls, Skuas, Petrels, and Auks. By Percy R. Lowe, B.A., M.B., B.C. (Cantab.). Pp. xvi + 310; many photographs. London ('Country Life'): n. d., 1. 8vo. 15s.]

When one first glances over this new work by Dr. Lowe and notices the beauty and excellence of the photographs, one is at first inclined to ignore the letterpress, but this would be a great mistake, as Dr. Lowe has here given us a charming and rather unusual volume which is distinctly popular in character, but which at the same time contains many facts not generally known, as well as many suggestions and ideas of a novel and refreshing type not usually met with in works of this character. He is also able to express himself in a very clear and easy style, which will appeal equally to the specialist and the general reader.

Dr. Lowe commences by pointing out what is often not realized by the land-naturalist, that so-called sea-birds easily resolve themselves into two great groups according to their habitat. In the first category we have the Gulls and Cormorants, which gather their food either from the land or from the shallow seas in its immediate neighbourhood ; they

are never (except perhaps the Kittiwake) found more than a few miles from land. If you are leaving, for instance, such a port as Cape Town on a voyage for England, you lose sight entirely of all the Gulls so numerous in Table Bay when only a few miles out to sea. In the other category come the Petrels and Auks; these are the true sea-birds and may be met with at any distance from the land, and, indeed, seldom come near the land except in the breeding-season. Their food consists entirely of nekton and plankton, the small organisms which either swim or drift about on the surface of the sea at considerable distances away from land.

The Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*), now so familiar to Londoners since so many spend the winter and spring on the lakes in St. James's and other parks, penetrates far inland up the rivers, while in the summer it is on its nesting-ground, often many miles from the open sea.

On the Lake of Geneva the Black-headed Gull is to be found all the year round, and there are probably many individuals which never leave the lake throughout the whole year.

In contrast to the Black-headed Gull is the Kittiwake of the northern sea; a true sea-bird, it gets its living from the plankton of the north, disdaining the garbage and offal thrown up along the shore which satisfies most of the other Gulls.

From time to time there comes, generally during the winter, a great rush of Little Auks to our eastern shores. The birds arrive exhausted, and are picked up in countless numbers dead or dying, not only on the coast but far inland. Dr. Lowe endeavours to explain the "wreck of the Little Auk" by the following chain of reasoning:—The Little Auk feeds almost entirely on the plankton, the surface-floating organisms—small crustaceans, worms, larval forms of Echinoderms and Mollusca, which exist in countless millions, especially in the northern seas. The plankton is very sensitive to untoward atmospheric or marine conditions. High winds, cold, excess of fresh water due to melting ice, all tend to drive the plankton to below the surface, and the Auks, unable to procure food and thus weakened, are driven south by the northerly gales in packs and endeavour to find

quieter conditions in the North Sea, where the food-supply and other matters are quite different; finally they are driven on to the coast and inland, enfeebled for want of food, as those picked up have almost invariably empty stomachs. Such is Dr. Lowe's interpretation of the "wreck of the Little Auk."

Some contributions from other authors have been included in this volume. Mr. Bentley Beetham writes a chapter on the flight of birds, Messrs. W. P. Pycraft and W. R. Ogilvie-Grant each treat of the Cormorant. Mr. A. J. R. Roberts sends an account of the breeding-place of the Skua on the island of Foula, and Mr. C. J. King describes a night spent by him on Annet Island in the Scillies, where the Manx Shearwaters nest.

Altogether it is an unusual work both as regards its letterpress and illustrations, most of which have appeared in 'Country Life,' and therefore need no further commendation.

Mearns on new African Birds.

[Descriptions of ten new African Birds of the Genera *Pogonochla*, *Cossypha*, *Bradypterus*, *Sylvietta*, *Melaniparus*, and *Zosterops*, by Edgar A. Mearns. Smiths. Miscell. Coll. vol. 61, no. 20, 1913, pp. 1-8.]

The title of this paper sufficiently indicates its contents. All the new forms are described as subspecies, and all are from British East Africa and Abyssinia, and have been obtained by the many recent expeditions to Africa from the United States, including that of Dr. W. L. Abbott, which took place so long ago as 1888.

Nicoll on the Egg of the Sudan Crowned Crane.

[Some Notes on the Eggs of the Sudan Crowned Crane, *Balearica pavonina ceciliae*. By Michael J. Nicoll. Cairo Scientific Journ. vii. 1913.]

In a short note Mr. Nicoll describes the eggs of the Sudanese form of the Crowned Crane which were laid in the Giza Zoological Gardens in the autumn of 1910. They appear to resemble those of the South African form *B. regulorum* in being white with a greenish tinge, and differing from those of the Grey Crane, which are blotched with reddish-brown.

Ogilvie-Grant on British Game-birds.

[The Gun at Home and Abroad. British Game-birds and Wild-fowl. By W. R. Ogilvie-Grant and others. Pp. xii+444. 30 coloured plates. London (London and Counties Press Assoc.), 1912. 4to.]

This work is intended more for sportsmen than for naturalists, and deals at considerable length with the British Game-birds—the Capercaillie, Black and Red Grouse, Pheasant, and Partridge. Mr. Ogilvie-Grant, who has undertaken the natural history portion of the work, has managed to include a good deal of matter not generally found in books of this nature, such as an account of the eclipse-plumage of the Capercaillie and of other game-birds. In the chapter on the Pheasant there is a useful and carefully revised list of all the known forms divided into natural groups, and also a table showing the geographical distribution of each species or subspecies, though the limits of these are yet far from satisfactorily settled. A good many of the various forms have been imported and turned down in English coverts at one time or another, so that our present British strain of Pheasant is extraordinarily complex.

Less space is devoted to the Water-fowl, of which, however, Mr. O.-Grant gives a most comprehensive key, which he believes will enable any British-killed Duck to be unerringly identified.

The articles on shooting and rearing are chiefly by Col. R. F. Meysey Thompson and Major A. Acland Hood, while the illustrations from the brush of Mr. G. E. Lodge are full of charm, and show the plumage-changes with great detail.

Ogilvie-Grant on a new Lark.

[On a new Lark from the Cape Province. By W. R. Ogilvie-Grant. Annals S. Afr. Mus. xiii. 1913, p. 41.]

Calandrella sclateri capensis, subsp. n., from Philipstown in the Cape Province, is here described, which differs in its darker markings and more blackish bill from the typical *C. sclateri* obtained in Great Namaqualand.

Rothschild and Hartert on New Guinea Birds.

[List of the Collections of Birds made by Albert S. Meek in the lower ranges of the Snow Mountains, on the Eilanden River, and on Mount Goliath during the years 1910 and 1911. By the Hon. Walter Rothschild, F.R.S., Ph.D., and Ernst Hartert, Ph.D. Nov. Zool. vol. xx. 1913, pp. 473-527.]

Mr. Meek's personal adventures have been told in his book 'A Naturalist in Cannibal Land,' and in this memoir an account is given of the large collection of birds which he obtained in southern Dutch New Guinea for the Tring Museum.

The Letakwa, where he collected in 1910, is a tributary of the Oetakwa, the river by which Dr. Wollaston has recently reached the snows of Mt. Carstensz, but on this river Mr. Meek did not reach a greater elevation than 3000 ft. In the following year he joined a Dutch exploring party and ascended the Eilanden river some miles to the east of the Oetakwa, and finally made a camp at about 6500 ft., where he obtained large collections of birds and insects.

Messrs. Rothschild & Hartert have already described a number of new forms in the Bulletin of the Club, and in the present paper they add new species of *Sericornis* and *Pitohui* and new subspecies of *Astur*, *Pæcilodryes*, *Machæirhynchus*, *Sericornis*, and *Philemon*.

Among the Birds of Paradise are adult males and females of *Astrapia splendidissima* from Mt. Goliath, according to Meek "the most beautiful Bird of Paradise that I know," *Falcinellus striatus atratus*, also from Mt. Goliath and new, the rare *Pteridophora alberti* with its wonderful blue appendages, and females of *Loboparadisea sericea* previously described by Rothschild, the exact locality of which was previously unknown.

Salvadori and Festa on the Birds of Rhodes.

[Escursioni Zoologiche del Dr. Enrico Festa nell' Isola di Rodi. II. Uccelli. T. Salvadori ed E. Festa. Boll. Mus. Zool. Anat. comp. Torino, xxviii. 1913, no. 673, pp. 1-24.]

Italian naturalists have lost no time in exploring their

new possessions among the islands of the Ægean Sea, and Dr. Festa, during a recent excursion to the Island of Rhodes, has made a collection of some 334 birds, representing altogether 107 species. Except for the late Mr. C. G. Danford, who, during his wanderings in Asia Minor, made short excursions to this island (see 'Ibis,' 1880, p. 82), no other naturalist seems to have visited Rhodes.

Count Salvadori states that the facies of the avifauna of this island is decidedly European, but he has been able to discover two birds which he considers worthy of specific distinction—we must remember that Count Salvadori does not hold with subspecies; these are the Jay and the Robin, which he here describes as *Garrulus rhodius* and *Erithacus xanthothorax*.

Salvadori: a Bibliography of his Writings.

[Elenco degli scritti di Tommaso Salvadori 1863-1900 e Secondo Elenco degli scritti 1901-1913. Torino (Stamp. Reale), 1900 & 1913.]

A list of the titles of Count Salvadori's papers and works sent to us contains 320 titles. The first, dated 1863, is a letter addressed to 'The Ibis' for that year "on some Italian birds." Almost all the others deal with ornithological questions, and give a vivid idea of the remarkable output of work in ornithology accomplished by our revered Italian colleague.

Shufeldt on fossil birds.

[Fossil Feathers and some heretofore undescribed Fossil Birds, by R. W. Shufeldt, M.D. Journ. of Geology, xxi. 1913, pp. 628-652, 12 text-figs.]

At Florissant, in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, there are some exceedingly interesting Tertiary deposits of Oligocene age, in which have been found very large numbers of well-preserved remains of the land fauna and flora of those times.

These beds have long been known to American palæontologists, and of late years have yielded a rich harvest to Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell, of the State University of Colorado.

In this paper Dr. Shufeldt figures and discusses the imprints of a number of feathers obtained both recently and some time back from these beds. He also reproduces the figure of the earliest Passerine bird known from North America, which was described by Dr. J. A. Allen in the 'Bulletin' of the U.S. Geol. & Geogr. Survey so long ago as 1878 under the name of *Palaeospiza bella*. Unfortunately the original slab containing the fossil has entirely disappeared.

Other better-preserved remains, now in the Peabody Museum at Yale, from the Green-river beds of Wyoming are here described under the names of *Hebe schucherti*, gen. et sp. n., and *Yalavis tenuipes*, gen. et sp. n. The first of these indicates a small Passerine bird which Dr. Shufeldt believes to be referable to the family Pteroptochidæ, the members of which are distinguished from all other Passerine birds by having the posterior margin of the sternum doubly emarginated as in the Woodpeckers. They are now confined to America south of Costa Rica.

Of the position or relationship of the second new genus our author gives us no hint beyond that it is a "highly specialized Passerine."

Swarth on Californian Geese.

[A Study of a Collection of Geese of the *Branta canadensis* group from the San Joaquin Valley, California, by Harry S. Swarth. Univ. Cal. Publ. Zool. vol. 12, 1913, pp. 1-24, pls. 1-2, 8 text-figs.]

There is considerable confusion in regard to the various forms of the Canada Goose occurring not only in California but in other parts of the United States. The breeding-ranges of the various forms are far from accurately known, and variation is very considerable, so that the three subspecies usually occurring in North America are difficult to differentiate.

Mr. Swarth believes that *B. c. occidentalis*, generally stated to breed in California, is a resident with little or no migratory movement, and is confined to the humid north-west coast-region northwards to Alaska, and only occurs

accidentally in California at all. Of the other three subspecies—*B. c. canadensis*, *B. c. hutchinsi*, and *B. c. minima*—only the first-named has been found breeding in California; there is a single summer bird with eggs, taken at Lake Tahoe at a considerable elevation, by Ray ('Condor,' 1912, p. 70), in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California; while all three forms occur mingled together during the winter months in the San Joaquin valley and elsewhere in the State.

Thomson on Bird-marking in Scotland.

[Aberdeen University Bird-Migration Inquiry: First Interim Report (1909-1912). By A. Landsborough Thomson, M.A., M.B.O.U. *Scottish Naturalist*, 1912, pp. 153, 169-174, 217-224, 241-248; 1913, pp. 29-35, 79-84, 121-131.]

The Scotch bird-marking scheme was started under the auspices of Mr. A. L. Thomson early in 1909, and this report contains a complete account of all the birds recaptured up to the date of writing, arranged in systematic order. The rings used in this enquiry are of aluminium without any special clasp or fastening, and are marked "Aberdeen Univ." with a number. More than 200 helpers have taken part in the actual marking of birds, and by far the greatest number of birds have been marked in Aberdeenshire. As Mr. Thomson justly states, it is far too early as yet to deduce any final results, but we notice one interesting case of a hand-reared young female Mallard, marked in Aberdeenshire in June 1910, which was recaptured in July 1911 in northern Denmark, where it was described as a mother in charge of a brood of fifteen ducklings.

Todd on new Neotropical Birds.

[Preliminary Diagnoses of apparently new Birds from Tropical America. By W. E. Clyde Todd. *Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington*, xxvi, 1913, pp. 169-174.]

The Carnegie Museum at Pittsburg continues to acquire fresh collections of zoological material from the rich collecting-grounds of South America, and in this short paper Mr. Clyde Todd has drawn up preliminary descriptions of

33 new forms, most of them subspecies which he believes to be new. They are from collections made by Mr. M. A. Carriker in Colombia and Venezuela and by José Steinbach in Bolivia.

A new Humming-bird from Bolivia—*Microstilbon insperatus*, gen. et sp. nov.—is sufficiently distinct from the members of the allied *Chatocercus* to warrant the creation of a new genus; while the last novelty described in the paper is a Rail, *Rallus longirostris leucophæus*, subsp. n., from the Isle of Pines off the coast of Cuba.

Tschusi on Austro-Hungarian Ornithology.

[Ornithologische Literatur Osterreich-Ungarns, Bosniens und der Herzegovina 1912, von Viktor Ritter v. Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen. Verhandl. der k. k. zool.-bot. Ges. in Wien, 1913, pp. 184-211.

Ornithologische Kollektaneen aus Osterreich-Ungarn. xxi. 1912. *Ibid.* Zool. Beobacht. liv. 1913.

Ankunfts- und Abzugsdaten bei Hallein (1912). ix. *Ibid.* Ornith. Monatsschr. 1913, pp. 208-214.]

In the first of these papers von Tschusi gives his annual record of the bird-literature of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The entries are all made under the authors' names in alphabetical order, and include papers in the German, Hungarian, Czech, and Croatian languages.

In the second contribution von Tschusi has extracted from sporting and other newspapers such facts as he considers worthy of more permanent record, and these are arranged in systematic order under the species to which they refer.

The third paper contains the dates of arrival and departure of migratory birds in the grounds of the Villa Tännenhof, near Hallein in Upper Austria, where the residence of the author is situated.

Tyler on the Birds of Fresno, California.

[Some Birds of the Fresno District, California. By John G. Tyler. Cooper Ornithological Club. Pacific Coast Avifauna, no. 9, pp. 1-114. Hollywood, Cal., 1913.]

The town of Fresno lies in the great central valley of California between the coast-range and the Sierra Nevada,

and this paper deals with the birds found in the immediate neighbourhood. It is a low-lying district, having an average elevation of about 400 feet, and the majority of the birds found within the limits belong to Lower Sonoran life-zone. The species enumerated are 161 in number, and ample field-notes are given in each case.

Van Pelt Lechner on the Eggs of the Birds of Holland.

[Oologia Neerlandica. Eggs of Birds breeding in the Netherlands. By A. A. van Pelt Lechner. With coloured plates made direct from specimens in the author's collection. Parts i.-vi. The Hague (M. Nijhoff), 1911-1913. (Size 10" \times 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".) Subscription price for the complete work, £7 7s.]

Heer van Pelt Lechner's work is now approaching completion, as 160 plates out of the total number of 191 have already been issued, and it is now possible to form some idea as to the value and scope of this important contribution to oology.

The work consists of three parts: an atlas of plates illustrating the eggs of every species which has bred in Holland; a page of text to face each plate, with briefly tabulated information as to the colour, size, weight, and shape of the eggs, and concise notes on the nest and breeding-habits of each species, but containing no information as to the breeding-range in Holland; and thirdly, oological studies with regard to the structure, colour, and characteristics of the eggs of each family.

When complete the work will contain 667 figures of eggs, of which 608 will be reproduced in colour, and the remaining 59, which represent white eggs, by photography. The latter may be briefly dismissed, as they have the usual defects of photographs, and give little idea of the texture and none of the gloss of the eggs in question. The coloured plates, however, demand fuller notice. Each egg is separately figured and mounted, so that in some cases there are as many as six figures on one plate, each separately reproduced by three-colour process. By this system the author has ensured perfect focussing for each egg. The screen-work, though readily seen on microscopic examination,

is scarcely perceptible to the eye, and, in consequence, the results are excellent and far ahead of those attained in Mr. Dresser's work, which were in some cases very disappointing, especially where large numbers of small eggs were photographed together. These figures have all the brightness and purity of colour that one sees in the eggs themselves and generally fails to find in the reproduction. When we come to the choice of specimens figured, we find the plan of confining the selection to one collection has resulted in the figuring in many cases of only the common types. Occasionally we find that Heer van Pelt Lechner's collection includes a fairly wide range of variation (as in the case of *Emberiza citrinella*); but the four eggs figured of *Corvus frugilegus* might have all been taken from a single tree in any rookery, and give no idea of the variation in this species, and the same may be said of many others. As illustrations of typical eggs, they are, however, in most cases excellent, and in some instances have never been excelled; but we must make an exception to plate 43, which purports to represent the eggs of *Parus cristatus mitratus*. The writer has taken the eggs of this race personally in North Brabant, and has before him a series of the eggs of two or three other forms of Crested Tit; and in every case they are heavily marked with red with a very decided tendency to a zone at the large end. Even if the eggs figured are genuine, which we greatly doubt, they are quite abnormal, and should have been excluded from a work in which the usual types are figured. The illustrations of the eggs of *Phylloscopus collybita* (plate 57) are also scarcely characteristic of this species.

When we come to consider the letterpress which accompanies each plate, we note one omission which it is not yet too late to remedy, but which may render the whole work one of only secondary importance if not attended to. Although each figure is distinguished by a letter, there is no information whatever given as to the origin of the specimens figured. They are all, we believe, from the Van Pelt Lechner collection, and probably in most cases of Dutch

origin, though it is doubtful whether the eggs figured of *Turdus pilaris*, *T. torquatus*, and *Acrocephalus aquaticus* were taken in Holland. But in any scientific work on oology each figure should be *the portrait of some individual egg*, and information on this point is indispensable. The beautiful series of illustrations of eggs of *Cuculus canorus* is almost valueless without details as to the foster-parents in each case, and we note that of the three figures given of the eggs of *Lanius senator*, (b) is of the rare erythristic type and (c) shows a distinct tendency towards it. Yet there is no hint of this in the accompanying letterpress, where the surface-markings are described as "grey or greenish brown." It would be interesting to learn whether the red type occurs in Holland, as it undoubtedly does in the Mediterranean region.

The studies on egg-structure and family characteristics form an original feature of this work and are extremely interesting, especially the researches of the author on the distribution of colouring-matter in the different layers of the shell, a subject to which little attention has been given up to the present, though it is undoubtedly to research in this direction that we must look for an explanation of many of the problems in egg-coloration. We trust that in the forthcoming part of this work Heer van Pelt Lechner will publish the localities and dates of all the specimens figured, as without this information, no illustrations of eggs, however beautiful in themselves, can be considered as satisfactory; and since the study of local races has made such progress, these details are indispensable. F. C. R. JOURDAIN.

Vaucher on the Greek Partridge of Canton Ticino.

[Observations sur quelques Bartavelles du bassin du Tessin (*Caccabis saxatilis biedermanni* Reich.), par Alfred Vaucher. Boll. Soc. ticinese Sci. nat. viii. 1912, pp. 1-3.]

Two years ago Dr. Reichenow (Ornith. Monatsb. 1911, p. 35) described the Greek Partridge inhabiting the valley of the Ticino on the southern slope of the Alps as distinct from that of the Canton Valais on the other side of the range.

M. Vaucher, in a letter addressed to Sig. Ghidini, who originally procured the examples examined by Reichenow, criticizes the grounds on which the species was based; but subsequently on other characters, chiefly of measurement, concludes that the Partridges of Valsolda, in the basin of the Ceresio, a neighbouring valley, may perhaps be distinguishable; and he therefore admits *Caccabis saxatilis biedermanni* as a distinct subspecies inhabiting the valleys on the Italian slopes of the Alps.

Annals of the Cyprus Nat. Hist. Soc.

[Annals of the Cyprus Natural History Society. Number iv. 1912-13. Nicosia, Cyprus, 1913.]

It is to be hoped that this young society may be able to survive the loss of its founder, Mr. J. A. S. Bucknill, who has left Cyprus for Hongkong, where he now occupies the post of Attorney-General; but the present instalment of the journal, though covering two years, is rather thin. It is mostly taken up with observations and records on the birds during the years 1912 and 1913, made by Messrs. F. R. S. Baxendale and C. B. Horsbrugh, who have added a considerable number of records to the Cyprus list, such as *Buteo ferox* and *Aquila pomarina*; while the Blue Rock-Thrush and the Palestine Warbler (*Sylvia melanothorax*) have been found nesting on the island for the first time.

Bird Notes.

[Bird Notes. The Journal of the Foreign Bird Club. Edited by Wesley T. Page. Vol. iv. for 1913.]

Most of the articles in this Journal are of special interest to aviculturists, and consist of practical directions for keeping and breeding birds in aviaries; there are also many useful hints for the planning and construction of the aviaries themselves.

Another interesting feature is a series of beautiful coloured plates by Goodchild. These include in the present volume *Zosterops palpebrosa*, *Irena turcosa*, *Psittacus incertus*, *Pytelia melba* and *P. afra*, and *Muscicapa parva*. There are

also a number of life-like and characteristic photographs by Mr. H. Willford. The notes accompanying these are all written by the editor, Mr. W. T. Page, who has also compiled an interesting list of all the hybrids which have been reared in captivity in England.

Other articles are by Dr. Hopkinson, who continues his notes on the birds of the Gambia, and Mr. H. Whistler, who sends an interesting photograph of an example of *Gypaëtus barbatus*, which he reared from a nest found in the Punjab Salt Range in India, and which is now in the Zoological Gardens. He also writes on the birds noticed by him when travelling from Trieste to Bombay. Finally, the Hon. Mary C. Hawke contributes some notes on the birds she saw in the Argentine during a recent trip there.

The Condor.

[The Condor. A magazine of Western Ornithology. Vol. xv. 1913. 6 nos., 246 pp. Edited by Joseph Grinnell. Hollywood, Cal., U.S.A.]

The most attractive feature of this journal is undoubtedly the very beautiful reproductions of artistic photographs with which it is illustrated. In this respect the 'Condor' stands alone among scientific ornithological periodicals. Some of the best of these come from the camera of William Leon Dawson, joint author of 'The Birds of Washington,' not the capital but the State of the north-west United States (*cf.* 'Ibis,' 1910, p. 360). The frontispiece of the present volume and several additional smaller text-figures illustrate Mr. Dawson's great skill, and this is specially the case with a very rare Wader (*Aphriza virgata*), whose breeding-range still remains to be discovered, but which is occasionally to be observed on the beach near Santa Barbara in California. In the March-April number it is announced that Mr. Dawson, with the help of other Californian ornithologists, is preparing a sumptuous work on the Birds of California, to be illustrated with coloured plates by a Mr. Allan Brooks, who is a son of a well-known co-worker with the late Mr. Allan O. Hume of Indian fame, Mr. W. E. Brooks.

Mr. E. R. Warren (p. 121) discusses the question of

whether, as an old superstition has it, bed-bugs are found in Swallow's nests. He finds that though other species of the genus *Acanthia* are often parasitic on various species of birds, the true *A. lectularia* never associates with Swallows, which are and should be encouraged to build in the neighbourhood of houses, as they are invaluable for reducing the plague of flies so common in the west of America.

The veteran Dr. R. W. Shufeldt (p. 138) contributes some good photographs, taken by himself, of the eggs of Limicoline birds in the collection of Mr. E. J. Court of Washington, D.C., and Mr. H. S. Swarth (p. 167) revises the Californian forms of the Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*) occurring in California, and finds it necessary to describe a new form, *P. m. falcinellus*, inhabiting the central and northern-central portions of the State. As in the case of many other birds, the alternations of moist and humid conditions with those of great aridity in different parts of the State cause a considerable amount of variation and the formation of numerous distinguishable races.

Some other papers of special interest, especially those of Mr. Grinnell, have already been referred to separately in 'The Ibis' for last year, but there are in addition a number of articles of more or less local interest, not only on the birds of California, but also on those of Utah, Montana, and other western States, well worth the attention of such of our members who are interested in American ornithology.

Le Gerfaut.

[Le Gerfaut. Revue belge d'Ornithologie. Publiée par la Société ornithologique du Centre de la Belgique. Bruxelles (F. van Buggenheodt). 3^e Année, Octobre 1913.]

We have recently received a copy of the Belgian monthly journal of ornithology, which, though new to us, seems to be already in its third year. It is edited by M. Marcel de Contreres, and appears to be the official organ of several ornithological societies and clubs existing in Belgium. Some of these are avicultural in their aims, some profess

to deal with the more scientific aspects of ornithology, but all are interested in birds and bird-life.

In the number now before us, which consists of about 15 pages of text, there is an interesting article containing field-notes and other observations on the Grasshopper Warbler, which, though not generally considered more than an accidental visitor to Belgium, is, according to M. Alfred Sacré, far from uncommon in the Belgian uplands in the neighbourhood of Spa on the Luxemburg borders, where it is known to the natives under the Wallon name of "Cretion" (cricket) or "Mousse-es-brouire" (hider in the heath). In these regions this bird is a regular summer visitor.

In another interesting contribution M. Auguste Tant completes a series of articles on the food of the Belgian birds of prey, as deduced from an examination of their stomach-contents.

Irish Naturalist.

[The Irish Naturalist. A Monthly Journal. Vol. xxii. 1913, nos. 1-12.]

The articles of ornithological subjects in last year's volume are not numerous or of great importance. Mr. R. Warren (p. 174) communicates some observations on the northward migration of the White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) across Bartragh Island in Killala Bay. Mr. Warren first met with this bird so long ago as 1851, after which he lost sight of it till 1893, while since 1897 it seems to have been noticed every year in April or May, passing northwards across this little island to breed in northern Scandinavia or Iceland.

In another article (p. 152) Mr. Warren relates his observations on the southward migration of Richardson's and the Pomatorhine Skuas at the end of September or beginning of October up the Moy estuary at the head of Killala Bay. He believes that they pass on along the line of lakes Cullen, Mask, and Corrib to Galway Bay, and thence to Tralee harbour, where they have been noticed a few days later than at Killala.

Mr. P. D. Percival (p. 208) has ringed a number of young

Woodcock in co. Sligo, and finds that most of them are shot in the immediate neighbourhood of the place where they were bred and ringed. He comes to the conclusion that in the west of Ireland the Woodcock is a more or less sedentary and resident bird.

Among rarities recorded, Mr. Barrington (p. 20) obtained *Alauda arvensis cinerea* in Oct. 1910 at the lighthouse on the Old Head of Kinsale, co. Cork—the first record for Ireland; he also had forwarded to him from Teelin, co. Donegal, on March 25 an immature female specimen of the Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*), and a Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia canna*) from Rockabill light, co. Dublin, killed at the light on May 13. This is a very rare bird in Ireland; indeed, there are only two previous records. Mr. Nichols notes the receipt of a Squacco Heron (*Ardea ralloides*), obtained in June 1913 near Westport, co. Mayo, by the National Museum, Dublin.

From Mr. R. J. Ussher (p. 164) we have a note on the further extension of the breeding-range of the Fulmar—this time as far as Kerry, while in the December number there is a lengthy obituary notice of him by his old friend Mr. R. M. Barrington, accompanied by a portrait.

Jaarbericht Nederlandsche Vogelkundigen.

[Club van Nederlandsche Vogelkundigen. Jaarbericht, no. 3. Deventer (Kluwer), 1913.]

The President and prime mover in this Dutch ornithological club is Baron Snouckaert van Schauburg of Dorn, and most of the articles contained in the year-book are from his pen. He commences with a report on ornithological occurrences in Holland from May 1912 to September 1913. The most remarkable find of the year is undoubtedly of the occurrence of *Cinclus a. aquaticus* in the extreme south-east of Holland in the province of Limburg. It is a resident there and has been found breeding. A photograph of the nest and specimens obtained is given. The same author writes some notes on a collection of birds he has recently received from Naryn in the Tian-Shan of

Central Asia, and of his experiences and observations on birds along the shores of Lake Geneva.

Another contributor, H. C. Siebbers (p. 67), has endeavoured to find out which of the races of the Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers inhabit Holland. An examination of a series of 28 Green Woodpeckers leads him to the conclusion that *Picus viridis pinetorum* is the prevailing form, but that in the north and west provinces the birds showed variations towards *P. v. pluvius*, the British race. In the case of the Spotted Woodpecker, *Dryobates major pinetorum* was everywhere the breeding bird, but *D. m. major* occasionally occurred on migration.

From the pen of the same author is a paper on the birds of Anhalt and its neighbourhood in Westphalia.

Messenger Ornithologique.

[*Messenger Ornithologique*. Edited by G. I. Poliakov. Obiralovka, Moscow Govt. 4th year, 1913.]

This Russian journal has now reached its fourth year of publication. As the matter is all in Russian except that the table of contents is translated, it is impossible here to do more than to indicate some of the principal papers contained in the three numbers that have reached us.

Of faunistic lists dealing with districts in Russia proper, we find E. I. Katin on birds in the Kjelze Government and E. W. Scharleman on Caucasian birds, while W. E. Uschakow has prepared a list of the birds of Tarsk in the Tobolsk Govt. N. A. Sarudny and S. I. Bilkewitch write on the Transcaspian region and north Persia and also on the ornithology of Turkestan, and the editor continues his account of his journey to Saissan-nor and Marka-kul in western Siberia.

The following new forms are described :—

Acrocephalus streperus intermedius Stantschinski (p. 34).

Corvus macrorhynchus mandshuricus Buturlin (p. 40).

Passer montanus volgensis Ognew (p. 41).

Remiza pendulina bostanjogli Sarudny (p. 46).

Carpodacus rhodochlamys kotschubeii Sarudny (p. 165).

Phylloscopus collybita subsindianus Sarudny (p. 269).

Other articles deal with the moult of the Kestrel by W. A. Hachlow, the biology of the Water-Ouzel by S. G. Stecher, the distribution of Marsh-Tits in Russia and the Nutcrackers of the Kief Government.

Ornithologisches Jahrbuch.

[Ornithologisches Jahrbuch. Organ für das palaarktische Faunagebiet. Herausgegeben von Victor Ritter von Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen. xxiv. Jahrgang, 1913. 240 pp. Hallein.]

The three parts of Ritter von Tschusi's organ are chiefly taken up with faunistic reviews and field-notes on the birds of the European continent. A. Watzinger (pp. 1-27) writes at some length, and as the result of many years' observation, on the birds of the country round Gmünden and Lambach, a mountainous region of Upper Austria, where he found *Acanthis linaria rubescens* breeding among the larches and pines at elevations of 4500 to 5500 ft. Rudolph J. Fromholz (pp. 27-45, 91-108) writes in diary form on his observations on the birds of the shores and islands of the delta of the Oder in Pomerania, and Dr. J. Gengler (pp. 46-60) has field-notes made on a short visit in summer to the neighbourhood of Mt. Arber in the highlands of Bavaria on the frontier between that kingdom and Bohemia.

Another interesting locality was visited by Dr. E. Rössler of Zagreb (pp. 173-189). This is the lower course of the river Drave, the great tributary of the Danube, which joins that river at Belgrade. Along its course are some large swamps and marshes, especially the "Obedska bare," where thousands of marsh-loving birds were found breeding. Among these the most numerous were the Glossy Ibis, the Spoonbill, and several species of Herons and Egrets.

P. E. Schmitz (pp. 85-91) continues his ornithological diary for 1911 at Jerusalem, and Herr von Thanner (pp. 189-194) records his rather unhappy experiences in the Canaries. He arranged to visit the eastern Canary Islands, but was unfortunately taken ill on Allegranza, and was unable to carry out all his plans. He was not able, as he had hoped, to secure examples of the Black Oyster-catcher

recently described by Bannerman, whom he met in Fuerteventura, but he made some other observations which he here recounts.

One of the most valuable papers is that of Dr. A. Laubmann (pp. 108–153, 161–173), who has critically examined further large collections of birds from Corsica in the Munich and in his own Museum, and here discusses at length the validity or otherwise of the many subspecies created for the Corsican and Sardinian breeding birds. In most of the cases examined by him he upholds the distinctions made by Parrot, Kleinschmidt, and other authors, and concludes that in a general way the Corsican subspecies are distinguished from their continental allies by their more intensive and darker coloration and by their slightly smaller size. He upholds the distinctness of *Corvus corax sardus* Kleinschm. against the attacks of Balducci (see 'Ibis,' 1913, p. 138).

A shorter article by W. Bacmeister (pp. 55–60) discusses the occurrence of the Rock-Sparrow (*Petronia p. petronia*) in Württemberg. It has been stated, and no doubt with truth, that it nested in the early part of the last century among the ruins of the castle of Neuhaus, near Mergentheim, but it certainly does not do so at the present time.

Die Schwalbe.

[Die Schwalbe, Berichte des Komitees für Ornithologische Beobachtungs-Stationen in Österreichs. Redigiert von Dr. Ludwig Ritter Lorenz von Liburnau. Neue Folge, iii. 1902–1913.]

The editor of this journal explains in the commencement of the present number the long interval that has elapsed since the appearance of the previous one, which is due partly to the mass of material accumulated and partly to difficulties of meeting the cost of publication.

The present number opens with a discussion of the question as to whether the Water-Ouzel destroys fish spawn and fry as it has often been accused of doing. As a result of careful enquiries and investigations throughout various parts of Austria, the conclusion is reached that though occasionally

fish scales are found in the stomachs of Water-Ouzels, the bulk of their food consists of aquatic insects.

The food of the Jay in Bohemia forms another subject of investigation undertaken by Curt Loos. He finds from the examination of 135 stomachs that the bulk of the food is of vegetable origin, and consists chiefly of acorns, the animal matter chiefly of coleopterous insects.

The greater part of this number (pp. 35-134) is taken up with the statistics of the spring migrations of various birds during the years 1897 to 1903. Very copious details and an elaborate series of dates are given, which we have not here space to discuss, but they should be examined by every serious student of migration.

The Scottish Naturalist.

[The Scottish Naturalist. Nos. 13-24 forming the volume for 1913. Edinburgh (Oliver & Boyd).]

Most of the ornithological articles in last year's volume of the 'Scottish Naturalist' are by the editor, Mr. Eagle-Clarke. On pp. 5 and 25, in collaboration with the Duchess of Bedford, he reports on migration observations on Fair Isle during 1912, made partly by himself and partly by Mr. Wilson, the bird-watcher, and Mr. George Stout.

From this little island, not inaptly called the British Heligoland, which is only three miles by two and lies midway between Orkney and Shetland, records of 411 species have now been obtained: only 18 of these are residents. The two rarities of 1912 are the Black Chat (*Saxicola leucura*), new to the Scotch avifauna and only once previously obtained in the British Islands, and the Curlew Sandpiper, probably not so uncommon, but not hitherto detected.

In a subsequent note Mr. Clarke states that a Wagtail that he obtained in May 1910 on Fair Isle turns out on further examination to be an example of *Motacilla flava beema*, an Asiatic species which had been once previously recorded in the British Isles from Sussex.

This last autumn Mr. Clarke deserted Fair Isle for Auskerry, a small uninhabited island of 260 acres, and one of the most easterly of the Orkney group. Here on October 3 last, among a number of southward migrants, he secured an example of *Phylloscopus fuscatus*, another Asiatic straggler breeding in eastern Siberia and wintering in India.

Mr. Eagle-Clarke also describes as a new subspecies in this volume (p. 53) the form of the Song-Thrush inhabiting the Outer Hebrides under the name *Turdus musicus hebridensis*. It is quite easy to distinguish it from the Song-Thrush of our islands, and owing to the absence of trees it breeds among the rocks.

Miss Baxter and Miss Rintoul, whom we may perhaps describe as pupils of Mr. Clarke, are also addicted to visiting small islands to observe migration. They spent the months of May and September 1912, as well as September 1913, on the Isle of May, at the mouth of the Firth of Forth, making observations on migration and looking out for rare stragglers. They were fortunate enough to discover *Hypolais polyglotta* and *Saxicola indica*, both of which have never been met with in Scotland before.

A systematic and full report is given by Mr. A. L. Thomson on his Aberdeen bird-marking scheme. The most interesting case we have noticed is of a British Song-Thrush which was ringed near Aberdeen in June, and was killed near Lisbon in November. We hardly yet know of any definite records of our British race outside our islands.

Mr. Peter Anderson contributes an interesting list of the birds of Tiree, an island lying off the coast to the west of Mull. It is remarkable how many birds are noted as winter-visitors only; the Song-Thrush, Blackbird, Stone Chat, Redbreast, Wren, and Goldfinch are all included in that category, and we may conclude that the winters there are comparatively mild although it lies so far north.

List of other Ornithological Publications received.

- HOWARD, H. E. British Warblers. (Pt. 8. London, 1913.)
 MATHEWS, G. M. The Birds of Australia. (Vol. iii. Pts. 4, 5, 1914.)
 SALVADORI, T., & FESTA, E. Nuova specie di Frosone della Sardegna.
 (Boll. Mus. Zool. Anat. Torino, xxix. No. 681, 1914.)
 SCHALOW, H. Über *Calamohërpe brehmii* Müller. Über das Brut-
 Vorkommen von *Nucifraga caryocatactes caryocatactes* L. in Thür-
 ingen. (Journ. f. Orn. January 1914.)
 Aquila. (Tom. xx. Budapest, 1913.)
 The Auk. (Vol. xxxix. No. 1, 1914.)
 The Austral Avian Record. (Vol. ii. No. 4. London, 1914.)
 Avicultural Magazine. (3rd Series, Vol. v. Nos. 3-5, 1914.)
 Bird Lore. (Vol. xv. No. 6; Vol. xvi. No. 1, 1913.)
 British Birds. (Vol. vii. Nos. 8-10, 1914.)
 The Condor. (Vol. xvi. No. 1, 1914.)
 The Emu. (Vol. xiii. pt. 3, 1914.)
 Journ. f. Ornith. (Vol. lxii. Heft 1, 1914.)
 Victoria Memorial Museum, Bulletin. (No. 1. Ottawa, 1913.)
 Zoologischer Anzeiger. (Bd. xliii. Nos. 7-13, 1914.)

XIX.—*Letters, Extracts, and Notes.*

THE following letters have been received :—

SIR,—In the April number of 'The Ibis' of last year, you were kind enough to publish a few lines from me expressing the belief that two eggs from the Tristram Collection, taken on Grand Manan many years ago and thought to be those of *Passerculus princeps*, "must have been laid by *P. savanna*." Their recent describer, in a note immediately following mine on the same page, dissents from this opinion, maintaining that inasmuch as they "were labelled and presumably identified by Mr. T. M. Brewer, the well-known American ornithologist, and as Mr. Ridgway, in his recent work on the 'Birds of North and Middle America,' states that *Passerculus princeps* breeds on Sable Island and other islands off Nova Scotia, there seems to be no sufficient reason to alter or doubt the identification."

Unfortunately for this contention it is, in reality, unsupported by Mr. Ridgway's statement, which stands as follows :—
 "Breeding on Sable Island (and other islands?) off Nova